

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office.

Drawings:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed with the application have been accepted.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with the application, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-20 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claims 1-20:

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that it is not clear if the respective "peripheral walls" in the claims "are the same elements."

Applicant has amended the claims as shown in the previous section, to address the Examiner's concerns. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection, based on these claim amendments.

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments (and additional clarifying amendments) have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and are not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1-20:

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,328,123 to LeNoue et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,466,585 to Maehara. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

LeNoue discloses a single reel tape cartridge having upper and lower portions which are used to form a case 10. Both of the upper 60 and lower 40 portions have peripheral walls which are abutted against each other when the casing 10 is assembled. There is no disclosure of the upper and lower portions having screw bosses. However, the Examiner has relied on the teachings of Maehara for this aspect of the claimed invention.

Further, LeNoue discloses that each of the upper and lower sections have strengthening ribs 72 in the corners. *See* Figures 1 and 2. Adjacent to the ribs 72 are grooves 74 which are used to prevent formation of sink in the upper and lower portions during manufacture. The grooves 74 make the thickness of the base or cover thinner than the remainder of the cover or base, and the ribs 72.

According to LeNoue, the sink is caused by excess shrinkage of material at the thicker interface between the ribs 72 and the respective surfaces of the upper and lower portions. Col. 2, lines 5-13. The presence of the grooves 74 aids in preventing the sink from forming.

However, even though there are grooves 74 adjacent to the ribs 72, there is no disclosure of having any grooves along the peripheral walls of the upper and lower portions of the casing, as in the present invention.

Specifically, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of having at least one of a border portion between a peripheral wall and a ceiling plate and a border portion between the peripheral wall and a floor plate being thinner than a thickness of the peripheral wall, which is an outermost peripheral wall. Applicant submits that the ribs 72 are not outermost peripheral walls of the casing, and as such the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that even if one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the above references as suggested by the Examiner (which Applicant does not admit), the resultant combination would fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the claimed invention, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of the claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 10/699,799

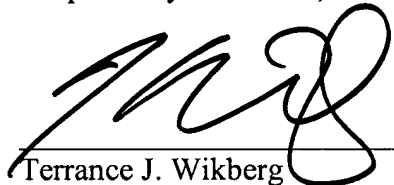
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Art Unit: 3654

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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